



Data directories

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Linux | /opt/nessus/var/nessus |
| macOS | /Library/Nessus/run/var/nessus |
| Windows | C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus |

Binary directories and utilities

| | |
|---------|--|
| Linux | /opt/nessus/sbin /opt/nessus/bin |
| macOS | /Library/Nessus/run/sbin /Library/Nessus/run/bin |
| Windows | C:\Program Files\Tenable\Nessus C:\Program Files (x86)\Tenable\Nessus |

- `nessusd` - e.g. to recompile plugins
- `nessuscli` - e.g. to configure, manage and update Nessus (docs)
- `nasl` - e.g. to test, run, sign plugins

Logs directories and files

| | |
|---------|---|
| Linux | /opt/nessus/var/nessus/logs |
| macOS | /Library/Nessus/run/var/nessus/logs |
| Windows | C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus\logs |

- `nessusd.dump` — Nessus dump log file used for debugging output.
- `nessusd.messages` — Nessus scanner log.
- `www_server.log` — Nessus web server log.
- `backend.log` — Nessus backend log.
- `nessuscli.log` — Nessus CLI log.

Plugin directories and files

| | |
|---------|--|
| Linux | /opt/nessus/lib/nessus/plugins |
| macOS | /Library/Nessus/run/lib/nessus/plugins |
| Windows | C:\ProgramData\Tenable\Nessus\nessus\plugins |

- `*.nasl` - plugins with readable source code
- `*.nbin` - compiled plugins
- `*.inc` - include libraries

Search in plugin content

```
cd /opt/nessus/lib/nessus/plugins
grep -rl script_id.19506 . 1
```

- 1 Due to big number of plugins you need to use `-r` parameter to recursively search in plugins directory (i.e., force grep to behave as rgrep).

Advanced Settings

```
cd /opt/nessus/sbin
nessuscli fix --list
nessuscli fix --get setting_name
nessuscli fix --set setting_name=<value>
```

API

```
https://localhost:8834/api 1
https://localhost:8834/server/status 2
https://localhost:8834/server/properties 3
```

- 1 Access Nessus API documentation.
- 2 Check Nessus service status.
- 3 Check Nessus service version.

Plugin Feed

Check latest available plugins feed

```
curl https://plugins.nessus.org/v2/plugins.php
202201311213
```

Check Plugin Feed in Nessus

Login to Nessus, go to Settings > About > check Plugin Set, or on OS level:

```
cd /opt/nessus/lib/nessus/plugins
head -1 plugin_feed_info.inc
PLUGIN_SET = "202201311213";
```

Good practices

When you run scan:

- ✓ Make sure that you have latest feed.
- ✓ Perform scan with credentials. (docs)

When you analyze scan results:

- ✓ Use Audit Trail to make sure why plugin did not provide result.
- ✓ Check Knowledge Base to find more details.

Additional resources

- docs.tenable.com/Nessus.htm - Nessus documentation
- tenable.com/downloads/nessus - Nessus download page
- tenable.com/plugins/search - Nessus Plugins Search
- community.tenable.com - Tenable Community
- github.com/tenable - Tenable profile at GitHub